

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An apparatus for attaching a conduit to at least one of a heart and a blood vessel, said apparatus comprising:

- a. an enclosure adapted for attachment to a wall of said heart or blood vessel;
- b. a tool having a first portion for creating an opening through said wall, said first portion contained within said enclosure; and
- c. a conduit having a first end attachable to said wall at said opening, said first end contained within said enclosure.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising said enclosure being sealed and having air evacuated therefrom prior to attachment to said wall.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising said enclosure filled with fluid.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an attachment member affixed to said enclosure, said attachment member attachable to said wall.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising an opening through said attachment member and said enclosure such that said enclosure is sealed only when said attachment member is attached to said wall.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising said enclosure having air evacuated therefrom.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising said enclosure being filled with fluid.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a port in said enclosure for evacuating air from said enclosure.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising said tool having a second portion external to said enclosure, said second portion manipulable to cause said first portion to create said opening.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first portion further comprises a holding member.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tool further comprises:

a. a central rod member having a holding member at said first portion of said tool contained within said enclosure;

b. a barrel member rotatably surrounding said central rod portion, said barrel member having a cutting blade at said first portion of said tool contained within said enclosure;

c. said central rod member manipulable to engage said holding member with tissue to be cut away by said cutting blade; and

d. said barrel member manipulable to cause said cutting blade to cut away tissue to create said opening.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising said enclosure sealed around said barrel member in a manner permitting rotation of said barrel member.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising said conduit having a second end external to said enclosure.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said first end is adapted for attachment to a heart and further comprising said second end being connectable to a blood pump.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said first end is adapted for attachment to a blood vessel at a first location and further comprising said second end being connectable said blood pump.

16. (Original) A method of attaching a conduit to a wall of at least one of a heart and a blood vessel, said method comprising:

- a. attaching an enclosure to said wall;
- b. enclosing within said enclosure at least a first portion of a tool for creating an opening through said wall;
- c. enclosing at least one end of said conduit within said enclosure;
- d. evacuating air from said enclosure;

- e. creating said opening through said wall using said tool; and
- f. attaching said one end of said conduit to said wall.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising filling said enclosure with fluid to evacuate said air.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising entirely sealing said enclosure prior to attachment to said wall.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

- a. first evacuating air from said enclosure; and
- b. subsequently attaching said enclosure to said wall.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising filling said enclosure with fluid to evacuate said air.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising:

- a. affixing an attachment member to said enclosure; and
- b. attaching said attachment member to said wall.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

- a. affixing an attachment member to said enclosure; and
- b. attaching said attachment member to said wall.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising:

- a. providing an opening through said attachment member and said enclosure;
- b. first attaching said attachment member to said wall; and
- c. subsequently evacuating air from said enclosure.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising filling said enclosure with fluid to evacuate said air.

25. (Original) An apparatus for attaching a conduit to a wall of at least one of a heart and a blood vessel, said apparatus comprising:

- a. a sealed enclosure having air evacuated therefrom;
- b. a tool having a first portion for creating an opening through said wall, said first portion contained within said sealed enclosure; and
- c. a conduit having a first end attachable to said wall, said first end contained within said sealed enclosure.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising said sealed enclosure being filled with fluid.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising an attachment member affixed to said enclosure, said attachment member attachable to said wall.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a port in said enclosure for evacuating air from said enclosure.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising said tool having a second portion external to said enclosure, said second portion manipulable to cause said first portion to create said opening.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said first portion further comprises a holding member.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said tool further comprises:

a. a central rod member having a holding member at said first portion of said tool contained within said enclosure;

b. a barrel member rotatably surrounding said central rod portion, said barrel member having a cutting blade at said first portion of said tool contained within said enclosure;

c. said central rod member manipulable to engage said holding member with tissue to be cut away by said cutting blade; and

d. said barrel member manipulable to cause said cutting blade to cut away tissue to create said opening.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising said enclosure sealed around said barrel member in a manner permitting rotation of said barrel member.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising said conduit having a second end external to said enclosure.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said first end is adapted for attachment to a heart and further comprising said second end being connectable to a blood pump..

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said first end is adapted for attachment to a blood vessel at a first location and further comprising said second end being connectable to said blood pump.

36. (Original) A method of attaching a conduit to a wall of at least one of a heart and a blood vessel, said method comprising:

- a. evacuating air from a sealed enclosure;
- b. enclosing within said sealed enclosure at least a portion of a tool used for creating an opening through said wall;
- c. enclosing an end of a conduit within said sealed enclosure;
- d. attaching said sealed enclosure to said wall;
- e. creating said opening in said wall using said tool; and
- f. attaching said end of said conduit at said opening.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein said sealed enclosure includes an attachment member affixed thereto and wherein attaching said sealed enclosure to said wall further comprises attaching said attachment member to said wall.

38. (Original) The method of claim 36 further comprising filling said enclosure with fluid to evacuating said air.

39-42 (Cancelled)